Surrender of BSNL and MTNL Phones

4526. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during April 2004 to February, 2005, there has been a significant rise in the number of surrender of BSNL and MTNL fixed line phones in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for such major increase in surrender of BSNL and MTNL land line phones;

(d) by what percentage have cell phone connections increased during this period; and

(e) the manner in which it has affected the business of BSNL and MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Digital Telephone Exchanges in Tamil Nadu

4527. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all telephone exchanges in Tamil Nadu have been digitalized;

(b) if so, the number of digitalized telephone exchanges in Tamil Nadu, District-wise;

(c) if not, the total number of telephone exchanges yet to be digitalized;

(d) whether Government are taking efforts to install only digitalized telephone exchanges in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All telephone exchanges of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) in Tamil Nadu have been digitalized. As on 31.03.2005, district wise digitalized telephone exchanges in Tamil Nadu is given in the Statement (See below).

(c)'Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Public Sector Telecom companies *viz.* Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and BSNL are installing only digital telephone exchanges throughout the country including rural areas.

Statement

District-wise digitalized telephone exchanges in Tamil Nadu as on 31.03.2005

SI. No.	Name of District	No. of Exchanges
1	2	3
1	Coimbatore	136
2	Cuddalore	77
3	Dharmapuri	60
4	Dindigul	73
5	Erode	120
6	Kancheepuram	66
7	Kanyakumari	43
8	Karur	54
9	Krishnagiri	66
10	Madurai	65
11	Nagapattinam	63
12	Namakkal	81
13	Perambalur	63
14	Pudukottal	83
15	Ramanathapuram	61

1	2	3
16	Salem	148
17	Sivaganga	62
18	Thanjavur	89
19	The Nilgiris	44
20	Theni	23
21	Thiruvarur	38
22	Tirunelveli	81
23	Tiruvannamalai	60
24	Tiruvellore	53
25	Trichy	86
26	Tuticorin	69
27	Vellore	94
28	Villupuram	93
29	Virudhunagar	62
	Tamil Nadu State	2113
30	Pondicherrry (UT)	34
	Tamil Nadu Circle	2147

Release of Tamil Nadu Software

4528. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have released Tamil Software recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how long it took for developing each software together with the name of developer; and

(d) whether the State Government were consulted on the utility and distribution of the sofware?